



# RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S *unabridged* *dictionary*

SECOND  
EDITION

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SPECIAL NEW-WORDS SECTION PLUS AN ESSAY  
ON THE GROWTH OF ENGLISH

2,400 ILLUSTRATIONS AND SPOT MAPS

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## telediagnosis

1952

## teleshop

ing credit at a community college. [1945-50; TELE(VISION) + CREDIT]

**tel-e-dì-ag-no-sis** (tel'i di'ag nō'sis), n., pl. -ses (-sēz). the detection of a disease by evaluating data transmitted to a receiving station from instruments monitoring a distant patient, as someone in a spacecraft. [1960-65; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + DIAGNOSIS]

**tel-e-dra-ma** (tel'i drā'ma, -dram'a), n. *Television.* a drama written esp. for broadcast on television. [1950-55; TELE(VISION) + DRAMA]

**tel-e-du** (tel'i dōō'), n. a small, dark-brown, badger-like mammal, *Mydaus javensis*, of the mountains of Java, Sumatra, and Borneo, having a white stripe down the back, and ejecting a foul-smelling secretion when alarmed. [1815-25; < Sumatran Malay *telodu* (sp. *teddu*)]

**tel-e-fa-ture** (tel'e fē'chär), n. *Television.* a major dramatic television film, usually of length comparable to a theatrical feature film. [TELE(VISION) + FEATURE]

**tel-e-fer-i-c** (tel'e fer'ik), n. *Transp.* telpher. Also, tel-e-ferique (tel'e fē rēk'). [1915-20; < F *téléphérique* or It *teleferica*, both ult. < E TELPHER with restoration of Gk *tele-*; see -IC]

**tel-e-film** (tel'e film'), n. a motion picture intended primarily to be shown on television. [1935-40; TELE(VISION) + FILM]

**tel-e-fo-to** (tel'e fō'tō), adj. *Informal.* telephoto.

**teleg.** 1. telegram. 2. telegraph. 3. telephony.

**tele-ga** (to leg'ə; Russ. tyi lyē'gə), n. a Russian cart of rude construction, having four wheels and no springs. [1550-60; < Russ *telega*, prob. ult. < Mongolian; cf. classical Mongolian *telege(n)* 'carriage']

**tel-e-gen-i-c** (tel'i jēn'ik), adj. having physical qualities or characteristics that televise well; videogenic. [1935-40; TELE(VISION) + -GENIC] —tel-e-gen'i-cal-ly, adv.

**tel-e-no-sis** (tel'e nō'sis, tel'ig-), n. supernatural or occult knowledge; clairvoyance. [1910-15; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -GNOSIS] —tel-e-no-sis-tic (tel'e nos'tik, tel'ig'-), adj.

**Tel-e-go-nus** (to leg'ə nəs), n. *Class. Myth.* 1. a son of Odysseus and Circe who unknowingly killed his father and eventually married Penelope. 2. a son of Proteus and the husband of Io who was killed by Hercules in a wrestling match.

**tel-e-gony** (to leg'ə nē), n. a former belief that a sire can influence the characteristics of the progeny of the female parent and subsequent mates. [1890-95; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -GONY] —tel-e-gon-i-c (tel'i gon'ik), adj.

**tel-e-gram** (tel'i gram'), n., v., -grammed, gram-ming. —n. 1. a message or communication sent by telegraph; telegraphic dispatch. —v.t. v.i. 2. to telegraph. [1850-55, Amer.; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -GRAM'] —tel-e-gram'mic, tel-e-gram-ma-tic (tel'i gra mat'ik), adj.

**tel-e-graph** (tel'i graf', -grāf'), n. 1. an apparatus, system, or process for transmitting messages or signals to a distant place, esp. by means of an electric device consisting essentially of a sending instrument and a distant receiving instrument connected by a conducting wire or other communications channel. 2. Naut. an apparatus, usually mechanical, for transmitting and receiving orders between the bridge of a ship and the engine room or some other part of the engineering department. 3. a telegraphic message. —v.t. 4. to transmit or send (a message) by telegraph. 5. to send a message to (a person) by telegraph. 6. *Informal.* to divulge or indicate unwittingly (one's intention, next offensive move, etc.), as to an opponent or to an audience; broadcast: *The fighter telegraphed his punch and his opponent was able to parity it. If you act nervous too early in the scene, you'll telegraph the character's move.* —v.i. 7. to send a message by telegraph. [ < F *télégraphe* (1792) a kind of manual signaling device; see TELE-<sup>1</sup>-GRAPH] —tel-e-raph'er (to leg'rā fər), esp. Brit., tel-e-raph'ist, n.

**tel-e-graph buoy**, a buoy placed over an underwater telegraph cable.

**tel-e-graph-e-o** (tel'i gra fez', -fēs', tel'i gra fez', -fēz'), n. a style of writing or speaking distinguished by the omissions, abbreviations, and combinations that are characteristic of telegrams, as in "EXPECT ARRIVE SIX EVENING." [1880-85; TELEGRAPH + -ESE]

**tel-e-graph-i-c** (tel'i graf'ik), adj. 1. of or pertaining to the telegraph. 2. concise, clipped, or elliptical in style; telegraphic speech. [1785-95; TELEGRAPH + -IC] —tel-e-graph'i-cal-ly, adv.

**tel-e-raph-one** (to leg'rā fōn'), n. an early magnetic sound-recording device for use with wire, tape, or disks. [1885-90; < Dan *telephon*. See TELE-<sup>1</sup>, GRAPH-O-, -PHONE]

**tel/e-graph plant**, a tick trefoil, *Desmodium motorum*, of the legume family, native to tropical Asia, noted for the spontaneous, jerking, signalike motions of its leaflets. [1880-85]

**tel-e-raph-y** (to leg'rā fē), n. the art or practice of constructing or operating telegraphs. [1785-95; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -GRAPHY]

**Tel-e-gu** (tel'i gōō'), n., pl. -gu's, (esp. collectively) -gu, adj. Telugu.

**tel-e-ki-ne-sis** (tel'i ki nē'sis, -ki-), n. psychokinesis. [1885-90; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -KINESIS] —tel-e-ki-net-i-c (tel'i ki net'ik, -ki-), adj.

**Tel el A·mar-na** (tel' el ē mär'nə). See Tell el Amarna.

**Tel-e-ma-chus** (to lem'a kes), n. *Class. Myth.* the son of Odysseus and Penelope who helped Odysseus to kill the suitors of Penelope.

**CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY:** <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of, blended; c, cognate with; cf, compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r, re-placing; s, stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelling; respelled; trans., translation; ?, origin unknown; \*, unattested; †, probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

**Te-le-mann** (tā'lā mān'), n. Georg Philipp (gā ör'fik), 1681-1767, German composer.

**tel-e-mark** (tel'e märk'), n. (sometimes cap.) *Skiing.* a turn in which a skier places one ski far forward of the other and gradually angles the tip of the forward ski inward in the direction to be turned. [1905-10; named after Telemark, a Norwegian county]

**tel-e-mar-keting** (tel'e mär'ki ting), n. selling or advertising by telephone. [TELE-<sup>1</sup> + MARKETING] —tel-e-mar'ket'er, n.

**tel-e-me-chan-i-cs** (tel'e mi kan'iks), n. (used with a singular v.) the science or practice of operating mechanisms by remote control. [TELE-<sup>1</sup> + MECHANICS]

**tel-e-med-i-cine** (tel'e med'i sin or, esp. Brit., -med'sin), n. the diagnosis and treatment of patients in remote areas using medical information, as x-rays or television pictures, transmitted over long distances, esp. by satellite. [1965-70; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + MEDICINE]

**tel-e-met-er** (to lem'i ter, tel'e me'ter), n. 1. any of certain devices or attachments for determining distances by measuring the angle subtending a known distance. 2. *Select.* the complete measuring, transmitting, and receiving apparatus for indicating, recording, or integrating at a distance, by electrical translating means, the value of a quantity. —v.t. 3. to transmit (radio signals, data, etc.) automatically and at a distance, as between a ground station and an artificial satellite, space probe, or the like, esp. in order to record information, operate guidance apparatus, etc. —v.i. 4. to telemeter radio signals, data, etc. [1855-60; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -METER] —tel-e-met-ric (tel'e met'rik), adj. —tel-e-met'ri-cal-ly, adv. —tel-e-met'ri-cally, adv.

**tel-e-motor** (tel'e mō'tor), n. a mechanical, electrical, or hydraulic system in which power is applied at or controlled from a distant point, esp. such a system actuating a ship's rudder. [1885-90; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + MOTOR]

**tel-en-ceph-a-lon** (tel'en sef'ə lon', -len'), n., pl. -lons, -la (-le). Anat. the anterior section of the forebrain comprising the cerebrum and related structures. [1900-05; TEL-<sup>2</sup> + ENCEPHALON] —tel-en-ce-phal-i-c (tel'en se fal'ik), adj.

**tel-eo-**, var. of **tele-**: teleology.

**tel-e-ob-jec-tive lens'** (tel'e əb jek'tiv, tel'-), *Photog.* See *telephoto lens*. [TELE-<sup>1</sup> + OBJECTIVE]

**tel-e-o-log-i-cal ar-gu-ment**, *Metaphys.* the argument for the existence of God based on the assumption that order in the universe implies an ordered and cannot be a natural feature of the universe. Also called argument from design, tel-eolog'ical proof.

**tel-e-o-logy** (tel'e əlō'jē, tēlē-), n. *Philos.* 1. the doctrine that final causes exist. 2. the study of the evidences of design or purpose in nature. 3. such design or purpose. 4. the belief that purpose and design are a part of or are apparent in nature. 5. (in vitalist philosophy) the doctrine that phenomena are guided not only by mechanical forces but that they also move toward certain goals of self-realization. [1730-40; < NL *teleologia*. See *TELEO-*, -LOGI-, -tel-e-o-logic-al (tel'e ə lōj'ik, tēlē-), tel-e-o-logic'ic, adj. —tel-e-o-log'i-cal-ly, adv. —tel-e-o-logic'ism, n. —tel-e-o-logic'ist, n.]

**tel-e-o-ost** (tel'e ost', tēlē-), adj. 1. belonging or pertaining to the Teleosteoi, a group of bony fishes including most living species. —n. 2. Also called tel-eo-osome (tel'e ə stōm', tēlē-), a teleost fish. Also, tel-eo-oste-an. [1860-65; < NL *Teleosteoi* infraclass name (designating fish with completely ossified skeletons), pl. of *teleosteus*, equiv. to Gk *tele-* TELE-<sup>2</sup> + *osteos* -boned, adj. deriv. of *osteon* bone; see OSTEO-, -OUS]

**tel-eo-path-i-thist** (to lep'ə thist), n. 1. a student of or believer in telepathy. 2. a person having telepathic power. [1890-95; TELEPATH(Y) + -IST]

**tel-eo-path-i-thize** (to lep'ə thiz'), v., -thized, -thiz-ing. —v.t. 1. to communicate with by telepathy. —v.i. 2. to practice or conduct telepathy. Also, esp. Brit., tel-eo-path'i-thise'. [1890-95; TELEPATH(Y) + -IZE]

**tel-eo-path-i-thy** (to lep'ə thē), n. communication between minds by some means other than sensory perception. Also called *mental telepathy*. [1880-85; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -PATHY] —tel-eo-path-i-lic (tel'e path'ik), adj. —tel-eo-path'i-cal-ly, adv.

**tel-eo-tele-**, telephony.

**tel-e-phone** (tel'e fon'), n., v., -phoned, -phon-ing. —n. 1. an apparatus, system, or process for transmission of sound or speech to a distant point, esp. by an electric device. —v.t. 2. to speak to or summon (a person) by telephone. 3. to send (a message) by telephone. —v.i. 4. to send a message by telephone. Also, phone. [1825-35; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PHONE] —tel'e-phon'er, n. —tel'e-phon'er, n.

**tel/e-phone an'swering machine**, See *answering machine*. [1960-65]

**tel/e-phone bank**, an array of telephones used in large-scale telephoning operations, as for a political campaign.

**tel/e-phone book**, a book, directory, or the like, usually containing an alphabetical list of telephone subscribers in a city or other area, together with their addresses and telephone numbers. Also called *tel/e-phone directory*. [1910-15]

**tel/e-phone booth**, a more or less soundproof booth containing a public telephone. Also called, esp. Brit., *tel/e-phone box*. [1895-1900, Amer.]

**tel/e-phone exchange**, a telecommunications facility to which subscribers' telephones connect, that switches calls among subscribers or to other exchanges for further routing.

**tel/e-phone pole**, a utility pole for supporting telephone wires. [1880-85, Amer.]

**tel/e-phone receiv'er**, a device, as in a telephone, that converts changes in an electric current into sound.

**tel/e-phone tag**, repeated unsuccessful attempts by two persons to connect with one another by telephone.

**tel/e-phon-i-c** (tel'e fon'ik), adj. 1. of, pertaining to,

or happening by means of a telephone system. 2. carrying sound to a distance by artificial means. [1825-35; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -PHONE + -IC] —tel/e-phon'i-cal-ly, adv.

**tel-e-pho-nist** (to lef'ə nist, tel'e fōt'), n. Chiefly Brit., telephone switchboard operator. [TELEPHONE + -IST]

**tel-e-pho-nony** (to lef'ə nē), n. 1. the construction or operation of telephones or telephonic systems. 2. a system employed in the transmission of speech or other sound between points, with or without the use of wires. [1825-35; TELEPHONE + -Y]

**tel-e-pho-to** (tel'e fō'tō), adj. noting or pertaining to see *TELEPHOTOGRAPH*, -IC]

**Tel-e-pho-to** (tel'e fōtō), Trademark. 1. a brand of apparatus for electrical transmission of photographs. 2. photograph transmitted by this apparatus.

**tel-e-pho-to-graph** (tel'e fōtō graf', -grāf'), n. a photograph taken with a telephoto lens. [1890-85; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PHOTOGRAPH]

**tel-e-pho-to-raphy** (tel'e fōtō'rafē fē), n. photography of distant objects, using a telephoto lens. [1880-85; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PHOTOGRAPHY] —tel/e-pho-to-graph'ic (tel'e fōtō'rafēk), adj.

**tel/e-pho-to-lens'**, *Photog.* a lens constructed so as shorter than that required by an ordinary lens producing an image of the same size; used to photograph small or distant objects. Also called *tel/e-photograph'ic lens*, *teleobjective lens*. [1940-45]

**tel-e-pho-ton-e-ter** (tel'e fōtōmō'ter), n. an instrument for measuring the amount of light emanating from a distant object. [1925-30; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PHOTOMETER]

**tel-e-plasm** (tel'e plaz'm), n. *Parapsychol.* a hypothetical emanation from the body of a medium that serves as the means for telekinesis. [1925-30; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + -PLASM] —tel/e-plas'mic, adj.

**tel-e-play** (tel'e plā'), n. a play written or adapted for broadcast on television. Also called *videoplay*, *video drama*. [1950-55; TELE(VISION) + PLAY]

**tel-e-port<sup>1</sup>** (tel'e pōrt', -pōrt'), v.t. to transport (a body) by telekinesis. [1950-55; back formation from *teleportation*, equiv. to TELE-<sup>1</sup> + (TRANS)PORTATION] —tel/e-port'a-tion, tel'e-port'age, n.

**tel-e-port<sup>2</sup>** (tel'e pōrt', -pōrt'), n. a regional telecommunications network that provides access to communications satellites and other long-distance media; telecommunications hub. [1980-1985; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PORT<sup>1</sup>]

**tel-e-print-er** (tel'e print'ər), n. a teletypewriter. [1925-30; TELE(TYPE) + PRINTER]

**tel-e-proc-ess-ing** (tel'e pros'ēs ing, -sing or, esp. Brit., -prō'sēs ing, -prō'sē sing), n. Computers. computerized processing and transmission of data over the telephone or other long-distance communications systems. Also, *telecomputing*. [1960-65; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + PROCESSING]

**Tel-e-Promp-Ter** (tel'e pōmp'tər), Trademark. a brand name for an off-camera device that displays a magnified script so that it is visible to the performers or speakers on a television program.

**tel-e-ran** (tel'e ran'), n. (sometimes cap.) a navigational aid that uses radar to map the sky above an airfield, which, together with a map of the airfield itself, is transmitted by television to aircraft approaching the field. [Tele(vision) R(adar) A(ir) N(avigation)]

**tel-e-scope** (tel'e skōp'), n., adj., v., -scoped, -scop-ing. —n. 1. an optical instrument for making distant objects appear larger and therefore nearer. One of the two principal forms (*refracting telescope*) consists essentially of an objective lens set into one end of a tube and an adjustable eyepiece or combination of lenses set into the other end of a tube that slides into the first and through which the enlarged object is viewed directly; the other form (*reflecting telescope*) has a concave mirror that gathers light from the object and focuses it into an adjustable eyepiece or combination of lenses through which the reflection of the object is enlarged and viewed. Cf. *radio telescope*. 2. (cap.) Astron. the constellation *Telescopium*. —adj. 3. consisting of parts that fit and slide one within another. —v.t. 4. to force together, one into another, or force into something else, in the manner of the sliding tubes of a jointed telescope. 5. to shorten or condense, compress; to *telescope the events of five hundred years into one history lecture*. —v.i. 6. to slide together, or into something else, in the manner of the tubes of a jointed telescope. 7. to be driven one into another, as railroad cars in a collision. 8. to be or become shortened or condensed. [1610-20; TELE-<sup>1</sup> + SCOPE, TELESCOPUM (< NL, see -IUM) and *telescopium* (< IT)]

**tel/e-scope eyes'**, protruding orbits, as on certain goldfish. —tel/e-scope-eyed', adj.

**tel/e-scop-i-c** (tel'e skōp'ik), adj. 1. of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a telescope. 2. capable of magnifying distant objects; a *telescopi*c lens. 3. obtained by means of a telescope; a *telescopi*c view of the moon. 4. seen by a telescope; visible only through a telescope. 5. capable of viewing objects from a distance; farseeing; a *telescopi*c eye. 6. consisting of parts that slide one within another like the tubes of a jointed telescope and are thus capable of being extended or shortened. Also, tel/e-scop-i-cal.

[TELESCOPE + -IC] —tel/e-scop'i-cal-ly, adv.

**Tel-e-sco-pi-um** (tel'e skōp'ē um), n., gen. -phi (-phi'). Astron. the *Telescope*, a small southern constellation between Ara and Corona Australis. [< NL]

**tel-les-co-py** (ta les'ka pē), n. 1. the use of the telescope. 2. telescopic investigation. [1860-65; TELESCOPE + -Y] —tel-les'co-pi-st, n.

**tel-e-screen** (tel'e skrēn'), n. a television screen, esp. a large one suitable for viewing by large numbers of people. [1940-45; TELE(VISION) + SCREEN]

**tel-e-seism** (tel'e sī'zəm), n. Geol. a tremor caused by an earthquake originating a great distance from the seismic station that records it. [TELE-<sup>1</sup> + SEISM]

**tel-e-shop** (tel'e shōp'), v.i., -shopped, -shop-ping. to